



Friday, August 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2012

Dear Representatives Smith and Wolf:

I applaud your work to bring attention to the need to address Lyme disease, which is the most common vector-borne disease in the United States.

I know that Lyme disease is a problem. I've seen, as governor of Massachusetts, its devastating impact as it has spread from throughout New England and the Mid-Atlantic, including states such as New Jersey, New York, and Virginia. It is disturbing that this disease, first noticed in the 1970s, has been reported in 49 states and is already the second most commonly reported disease in the Northeast and the sixth most commonly-reported nationwide. The medical, financial and emotional toll this takes on Americans is serious and lasting.

Clearly, this disease is spreading throughout the nation. More needs to be done. As president, I will work to ensure that more attention is focused on this important issue. My administration will ensure that government agencies talk to each other and work with patients, researchers, doctors, and businesses in an objective, comprehensive manner. We need to ensure that all scientific viewpoints concerning this illness can be heard.

Again, thank you for your continued efforts to call on the Obama Administration and Congress to do more. My administration will work with you to help those suffering live productive, healthy lives.

Best,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads 'Mitt Romney'.

Mitt Romney

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